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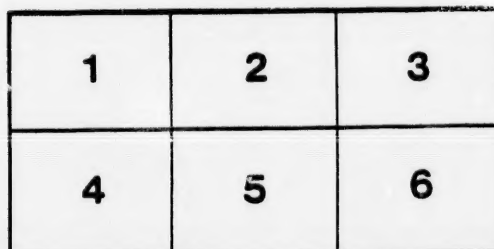
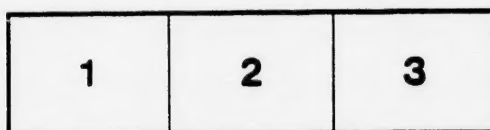
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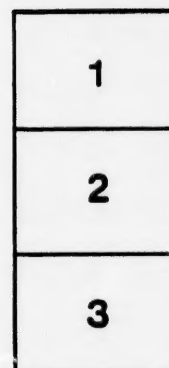
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Cofner

Quebec School of Medicine

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Delivered 15th May,

By Jas. Morris M.D. President Quebec
 School of Medicine and V. B. Borden
 College of 1848. Physicians & Surgeons.
 Lower Canada &c &c &c



Gentlemen,

THE purpose for which we this day assemble is one of more than ordinary interest; to commence, prosecute, and complete a Course of Medical Science and Practice, which shall recommend itself, as well to the intelligent of our own profession, as to the friends of Science in every other department of life.

It has too long been a subject of deep regret, that, in this flourishing City, in which commerce has been successfully cultivated, one of the most amiable and benevolent of the daughters of Science should not have found a fane sanctioned by public law, and upheld by the high character of its professorial instructors. But, " 'Tis never too late to do well "; and though a profession the most noble, and which requires, for its successful prosecution, the untiring exertions of the highest faculties of our rational nature, has hitherto been allowed to languish without a vigorous combination; under providence, we are this day met to hail the humble beginnings of an institution, limited, it may be, in its resources, and inferior, in the extent of its arrangements, to many schools of Medical Science.

EVERY undertaking, however, is stamped with glory, which tends to improve polite and useful learning, to excite emulation among men of literature and genius ; to heighten the character of any particular class ; and to give facility to that divine science, which, if it cannot arrest the messenger of death, blunts as much as possible his sharpened sting, and softens the terror of his victory.

To relieve distress, and to mitigate the sufferings to which man is subject, constitutes the science of medicine ; a science that involves facts and principles which can only be retained by the constant exercise of our mental faculties.

It cannot be doubted, that extensive knowledge in every scientific department, whether immediately or collaterally connected with the study of medicine, is highly advantageous and ornamental. In the proportion to the extent of acquired knowledge, the student will be enabled to correct prejudices, to discriminate between truth and error, and form his conclusions on rational and philosophic grounds.

So intimate indeed, is the study of medicine with the arts and sciences in general, that, the History of its progressive improvement, to which we are now about briefly to advert, is the history of man's improvement, in elegant and useful knowledge.

It is a grateful task to record the acts of illustrious men, and to commemorate the benefactors of mankind ; to trace the progress they made in their particular department of science, and to hold up their conduct to the youthful student, as examples for imitation and encouragement.

We are not enabled to state, how man was first led to direct his attention to the structure of the human frame, and to the manner in which its diseases could be alleviated and cured.

The records of antiquity inform us, that the afflicted were stationed in temples and public places, for the purpose of peti-

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tioning the passers by, for a remedy to their particular complaints. The streets and highways were frequented by the infirm and their friends, and the passing traveller was implored to suggest a remedy, which his experience in journeying through distant and populous countries, might enable him to afford. And, not to afford every possible information to those putting questions, was considered by all eastern nations, a crime, equal in extent, to what in our day, we would reckon the master of one vessel guilty of, in refusing succour to another, that had importuned him for aid, while yet at a distance from her destination.

Not considering the subject of natural or fabulous medicine as tending to your present edification, I have considered it more interesting to bring before you its condition posterior to very ancient periods in the history of our globe.

In process of time, when animal anatomy was combined with the Pythagorean system of philosophic reasoning, as applied to medicine, the art of healing gradually assumed the appearance of a distinct science, and was acquired at the true source of all successful observation, the bedside of the sick ; or by the traditional communications of a master to his disciples ; or those of a father to his son.

THE celebrated Asclepiades owed his medical fame to the knowledge acquired from his sire, which he again transmitted to his own descendants. It is to be lamented that of the labours of this deserving family, so frequently noticed in the voluminous writings ascribed to Hippocrates, no information has come down to our day, of the manner in which that remarkable race conducted those medical observations which descended to the Coan sage by hereditary right.

ABOUT 500 years before the christian era, when philosophy and liberty were rendering illustrious the states of Greece, and superstitious prejudice was yielding in medical matters, to rational experience, Hippocrates was born.

THE father of medicine, as he has been called, drank deeply and eagerly from every conceivable source of information, and treasured up those stores of practical acquirements which he successfully taught to others.

HAD his valuable precepts been followed, the science of medicine would have steadily advanced. But it was far otherwise. Scarcely had he discerned observation to be the most solid foundation in all medical reasoning, than they turned aside to listen to interminable themes about the nature of man, disease, medicine, and false deductions from the most deceitful of all kinds of experiments: dissections performed on the bodies of living animals.

THERE were not wanting many, who warned their contemporaries, that no course was auspicious which consisted not in noting, and writing out the history of diseases, as records of observed experience.

UPWARDS of one hundred years after the birth of Christ, Galen arose, a man destined to change the aspect and established order of medical science. His extraordinary genius was aided by great learning, which enabled him soon to silence the crowd of sectarian empirics.

It had been more advantageous for medicine, had he not allowed his imagination and the influence of scholastic habits, to overpower his judgment, since his works, far from clearing the way to observation, became so many text-books for the controversies of succeeding ages; and the simple exercise of bed-side observation, was soon lost in oblivion.

AGES now succeeded, to which historians have given the appellation of "dark." It is asserted that the Arabians, in these benighted times, had medical institutions in connection with hospitals. Under the protection of that noble race, the Saracenic Moors, celebrated hospitals were established in Spain, and crowded with students from every part of Europe. It has become

a custom, the result of ignorance, to detract from the merit of those promoters of general science : but their services, if only as copyists of scientific works, can hardly, in that dreary night of centuries, be too justly appreciated.

ALTHOUGH the sterile example of Galen enslaved the million, yet the long unrectified evil wrought, in many, its own cure. Disgust with mere discussion, instead of histories of maladies, drove these to travel into Italy and France, where subtleties, somewhat less wretched than in other countries, had not yet reduced medical orations into unmeaning commentaries. But the period was still far distant, in which medicine was to be grounded on its only true foundation, the observation of clinical facts, and the collection of instances.

THE students of these days acquired from their teachers only idle chimeras. They were amused with a profusion of blossom, but the real fruit of appealing to the sick bed, was seldom enforced.

THESE representations of the condition of medicine are not exaggerated. From the beginning of the fifteenth, till nearly the middle of the seventeenth century, all medical energy was in a state of dotage.

ON reviewing the statements we have now submitted, it is naturally suggested to the reflecting mind, how institutions, so beneficial to the human race, as those of general hospitals, and collegiate establishments in connection with them, wherever practicable, should have remained so long in a state of infancy. It is a melancholy fact, that, nearly two thousand years were necessary to establish a simple and evident truth, that practical medicine can only be acquired at the bedside of the sick.

ABOUT the middle of the seventeenth century, we have testimony that in Holland, establishments such as those we have hinted at, were in active operation, both in Utrecht and Leyden.

OTHOE Huernius, in the latter city, taught medicine on a comprehensive plan, by examining his patients in the presence of

his pupils, and expatiating on the nature of diseases, and the reasons for his mode of treatment.

THIS great man caused inspections of the body to be made after death, and moreover, exercised his pupils in the knowledge and preparation of medicines.

To Delaboe, a name worthy of honorable mention, succeeded one, whose genius entitles him to the grateful recollection of every succeeding age. I refer to Boerhaave. The encouraging manner in which he took notice of his pupils, fired their professional ambition, which was farther inflamed by the general estimation in which their great master was held. The most illustrious physicians of the day, were on the list of his pupils, who were afterwards scattered over every part of Europe.

MANY schools now arose that eclipsed the fame of Leyden, their common parent. To Scotland, the land of native worth, belongs the merit of being the first, under Dr. John Rutherford, to explain in clinical lectures, the nature and treatment of cases in public hospitals.

RUTHERFORD was Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, and obtained from the managers of the Royal Infirmary of that city, one hundred years ago, the privilege of admitting students into that public hospital, and thus advancing the interests of medical science.

A few years afterwards, Boerhaave established a clinical institution at Vienna, in which public lectures were delivered by Van Swieten. The reputation he acquired, was at once brilliant and merited, from his having adopted as his mode of instruction, the chasteness of Grecian medicine.

DE HAEN, another of Boerhaave's pupils was his successor, whose talents were characterized by the sagacity with which he discussed the most complicated facts. And, though an overweening self sufficiency darkened his merits as a man, he was a most

efficient instructor. In his *Ratio medendi*, indefatigable industry, select learning, accuracy of observation, and fidelity of statement, are evident in every page. If they fail in aught, it is, that they are rather a collection of isolated facts, than a connected series. Still, his dissertation must be regarded as a valuable contribution to medical science.

To De Haen succeeded Stoll equally able, elegantly and chastely to pourtray the history of disease, and who made historical descriptions subserve the purpose of throwing light upon the dogmata of the ancients. The principles of Hippocrates he firmly adhered to, and in a short time, by judicious energy, strongly impulsed the clinique of Vienna.

RUTHERFORD, the father of Clinical Institution in Great Britain, and a pupil of Boerhaave, had able followers in Munro, Gregory, Home, Cullen and others.

No teacher of Practical medicine ever took more pains than Cullen, in leading his students to reflect and reason, to observe the course of nature in diseases, and to distinguish between their essential symptoms and accidental combinations. He uniformly endeavoured, so far as he was able to discriminate, by observation and analysis, the reasons between the influence of the remedies employed by art, and the operations of nature, in the cure of diseases. No disease, however slight, but what was made by him the subject of observation ; and I mention this for the benefit of every student now before me, that he marked, most attentively, the symptoms, as they appeared in concurrence and succession ; their chief distinguishing characters ; how they accidentally combined, and spontaneously changed ; and how they were effected by the remedies employed. All these, he never failed to insist upon, and pointed them out as objects, pre-eminently deserving the attention of every student. Permit me to mention another trait of Cullen's character, which remarkably distinguished him from many of his fellow practitioners, and which is but too little

attended to. I refer to his never failing to inspect the bodies of those who died under his treatment.

IN taking a retrospect of continental medicine at that period, there is little to cheer.

THE one bright example that stands prominently forth upon the page of medical history, and presents a painful contrast to the general passive indifference, is, the institution at Sarthe, where the government dignified itself by a cordial support.

IT was not till 1715, that the imperial city, once the mistress of the world, possessed a public hospital.

THE circumstances connected with this first institution in the Italian capital, afford a gratifying proof, how much the dignity of medicine was, then and there, sought to be upheld.

ECCLESIASTICAL and executive power vied in encouraging zealous and scientific physicians to become its professors. Never was an hospital opened under happier auspices. It was enriched with the choicest collections of the *Materia Medica*. Nothing was wanting, which was conceived likely to correct observation, or calculated to promote the study of pathological anatomy. Its surgery was supplied with the most approved instruments; and the justly appreciated Lancisi, surrounded by a band of emulous pupils, was solemnly inaugurated as chief of the clinique, in the vast hospital of the Holy Ghost.

PAVIA was renowned from the fame of Tissot; and Bologna and Milan deserve honorable mention, and acquired a name from Tommasini and Rasori.

IN Spain, even at the present day, medicine is an abstract science, a mere matter of memory, the keeping in remembrance the names of diseases, together with the nomenclature of medicines supposed to be their cure.

It is the opinion of the Spanish faculty that, as medicine is a science of conjectures, each, to distinguish symptoms, should follow the secret inspirations of his own genius. Every practitioner endeavours to sustain his own opinion, but never pretends to invalidate those of his professional brother.

THERE is a remarkable rule of great antiquity among them, in regulating the practice of physic ;—that every student is required to give satisfactory proofs, that he has turned to good account the opportunities of witnessing a two year's practice in a populous town ; and, till this is proved, no licence is ever granted.

IN no country in Europe has the sage maxim been more strictly followed, that, "one wise physician skilled to heal, is more than armies to the public weal," than in the widely extended empire of Russia.

IN 1765, clinical instruction was established ; and every medical school in the empire is said to be attached to an hospital. Russian statesmen required not to be taught that the physical, intellectual, and moral wealth of a nation depends much upon its health.

IN Russia, and still more in Prussia, the clinical department is cultivated, as the most important. Every young man of good character and talent, who comes up to the standard of professional information, has a right to enter the public charities ; and all students can gratuitously derive profit, from progressive and regular instruction, in the difficult science of observing, questioning, discriminating, and relieving the sick.

THE condition of medical science in the Turkish dominions may be imagined, when diseases are attributed to the special wrath of God ; to the interference of devils ; or the evil eye of the stranger. It is not then to be wondered at, that the medical character is held in the highest esteem, and that the science has been

impeded among a people, referring natural incidents to supernatural causes; thus relaxing the mental powers, by not accustoming them to investigation. Wandering Dervises are the practitioners of Turkey, whose recipes, in severe fits of illness, consist in picked sentences of the Koran, sewed together, and given to the patient to swallow. A foreign physician is supposed to be possessed of very superior knowledge, and all his prescriptions are greedily swallowed.

WHOEVER in Turkey wears a hat, and not a turban, is immediately looked upon as the possessor of medical knowledge.

HE is addressed in the most respectful manner, and solicited by a crowd of Turks, to enter upon practice, whether willing or unwilling, by their holding out their hands, that he may feel their pulse, which they believe to be all that is required.

IT is a curious fact, that nothing so much enhances the value of a physician's knowledge with them, as his being able to tell every thing after feeling the pulse. In distinguishing the merits of one foreign physician from another, the sapient Turk invariably pronounces in favour of him, who, as he says, feels his pulse the best.

THE ancient pathology, that diseases are caused by an excess or deficiency of wind, is still common. Thus with them *headache* is wind in the head; *dyspnoea*, is caused by wind in the chest, and so on; by which mode, the physiology of respiration is thus rendered very simple,—the trachea becoming not only the air pipe of the lungs, but of the whole body.

THE encouragement given to foreign practitioners has generated the greatest abuses. Persons who have followed manual employments in their native land, are suddenly Physicians in Turkey.

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THERE are no apothecaries, or shops for the sale of medicine; but as physicians among them are seldom able to write, shops would be useless. Amputation among their surgeons is held in abhorrence. The opening of a dead body is expressly forbidden by the Koran, which says, "Thou shalt not open the body even of a criminal who has swallowed pearls of price." The manner in which the profession is remunerated may be supposed, when the sick Turk makes promises, and, when convalescent, breaks them. The surgeons are not burdened with many instruments, a lancet, a pair of scissors, a searing iron, and forceps for extracting balls, form the whole apparatus. In a case of violent hemorrhage, they are utterly baffled, not knowing how to arrest it.

WE will now advert to France. Whatever were the ancient forms of her medical schools, the overwhelming confusion that accompanied and were consequent upon every new and short lived condition of things, held France long stationary in respect of medicine.

EVERY general and spontaneous national movement probably effaced or annihilated whatever the institutions of the French enjoyed.

No state, no order pervaded any one of her many departments. When a tempest was succeeded by a temporary calm, there arose many who perceived the value of clinical establishments; and *importunate* demands were addressed to the government.

CORVISART, the confidential medical adviser of Napoleon, made use of his influential position in the noblest manner, in behalf of science and her votaries. Among his clinical pupils were Boyle, Laennec, and Dupuytren. Many of the most eminent physicians of France were successively educated in his clinique, and thence dispersed throughout the various parts of the empire.

BOYER, Pinel, Dubois and others of equal celebrity, vied with one another, in opening up new sources of information ; and the labours of these accomplished men produced the happiest results.

IF France was among the last to organize and cherish clinical schools, subsequent events have proved, that it was owing neither to uncivilized unconcern, nor to want of perception in her zealous Faculties, that such establishments were of intrinsic benefit. It is matter of admiration rather, that her medical men *never* lost sight of a scheme they longed to see consummated, but which every attempt to establish, received a shock from some avalanche of republican frenzy.

THE great number of clinical institutions, established in a comparatively short time, compensated for her previous backwardness ; and it is believed, that at this hour, there is not a city in the world, wherein clinical courses, equally varied and equally numerous are delivered, as in Paris ; and it is worthy of notice that medical instructors make their appearance at the early hour of 6 or 7 in the morning, to deliver lectures upon cases in the crowded amphitheatres attached to their respective institutions.

AMONG the illustrious names associated with a career of honour, two, who have rendered special service to the faculty, deserve particular mention ; Delpech and Fouquet ; the latter, the true founder of the medical clinique at Montpellier. How instructive were the lectures, is shewn by the deeds and panegyrics of his pupils. To a pleasing countenance he added a grave and dignified manner, select learning, consummate experience, fluent elocution, and admirable sagacity. Such was Fouquet in clinical efficiency. Delpech, in the surgical department of the same school, we have introduced to your notice, as the fellow labourer of Fouquet. This great man loved to acquire, only that he might impart. So dominant was the taste in him for instruction, that no

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sooner had he conceived a new idea, than he burned with irrepressible desire to communicate it to his pupils. His lectures were admirably adapted to rivet the attention and inflame the enthusiasm of an ingenuous audience. He was ever conversing with his students, comparing their various notions, and detecting the sources of their difficulties.

Montpellier was thus distinguished when another name added yet more brilliancy to its surgical instructions—Lallemand, young, ardent and intellectual, thirsting for fame, and determined to make the most of every fleeting hour, gave additional impulse to the healing art in this favoured city.

LALLEMAND'S devotedness to his profession is the mirror into which every student of this new medical school ought unceasingly to gaze. It was to him a labour of love, to trim the midnight lamp in his uninterrupted researches, and in extending the domain of true surgery. This extraordinary young man knew that facts are the food of science ; and, to the extent, that these are accumulated and digested, so will science be nourished. Let the same ambition, the same love of distinction and applause, which distinguished this indefatigable youth, distinguish you, and the fruit will inevitably be, that of enabling you to look with a spirit of emulous fellow feeling, instead of the despicable vice of envy, ever indicative of the sluggard.



HAVING now sketched the chief progressive improvements of medical science in continental countries, we now advert to the modifications and improvements of it in the British Isles.

IT was long a subject of pain rather than of envy, to contrast the condition of continental and British medicine.

THE long withheld protection of the government in favour of the profession, and consequently of its professional members, was the wonder and affected pity of foreign practitioners. It was only

when unburdened from the load of public prejudices, and erroneous opinions, that its inherent energies were partially unfettered. It is the province only of an intellectual age and an intellectual population, to make public institutions minister to more exalted functions. In no country in Europe would you more frequently than in the United Kingdom, have heard that "public hospitals are not schools of medical knowledge, nor intended as the sources of medical instruction, but establishments for the exercise of that knowledge in relieving human suffering."

By such narrow minded views was the only royal road leading to the principles of true experience, barred, against the advancement of sound practical and educational medicine.

Of the early fathers of our profession in Britain a few necessarily brief sketches must suffice.

In the beginning of the 14th century, medical science, as well as every other department of knowledge, was in the most degraded condition in the British Isles. The light of science, which had dawned upon the Southern climes, had not yet reached the remote shores of Britain.

YET, one name, even then, eminent as a physician, entitles him to a place in the early annals of British medicine,—Gilbert, surnamed Anglicanus, the contemporary of Mondini. Though, as is to be looked for, he possessed little philosophical research, or of real science; yet the defect of his principal work, "*Medicinæ Compendium*," must, in fairness, be ascribed to the age, and to the country in which he lived. The description which he gives of some diseases, proves that, under more favourable circumstances, he was capable of exercising a correct judgment, and would have excelled in the art of making observation.

At a very considerable distance from the days of Gilbert, when the principles of induction were leading the minds of men

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to larger and more enlightened views ; and truth and reason were being rescued from the bondage in which they had long been held, Linacre, the founder of the Royal College of Physicians, claims very honorable mention. Linacre was a native of Canterbury, and was, perhaps, the most learned man of his time. He had studied eloquence at Bologna under Politian, one of the most distinguished linguists of Europe. He was the first Englishman who read Aristotle and Galen in the original Greek ; and he publicly taught that language in the University of Oxford. He established lectures on physic, in both Universities, and at the time of his death, was president of the College, which owed its foundation to his liberality.

THE honor of being the founder of anatomical science in Britain is due to Dr. John Caius or Cay, the intimate friend of Vesalius, the restorer of anatomy in Europe, with whom Caius was a fellow-lodger, while pursuing his studies in the then celebrated University of Padua. It is an honor to our profession, that we can claim some of its members as the early promoters of general learning. Though an Englishman, Dr. Caius read lectures on Aristotle, in the Paduan University, and in no small degree promoted the cause of literature in the University of Cambridge, where a college, extended by his generosity, is still called after his name. He is endeared to the profession, however, by other reminiscences. It was the fashion in his day to follow the pursuits of knowledge in foreign lands ; but Caius, after his return from Italy, imbued with the ardent spirit of enquiry, and enlightened by the lamp of science, which had lately been kindled in that country, taught anatomy to British students in their own Hall, during the lengthened period of 20 years, and laid that foundation, to which we can trace the glory and discoveries of Harvey.

To Glisson, whom Boerhaave calls " the most accurate of anatomists ;" to Lower, the daring and original experimenter of transfusion ; and to Willis, the first classifier of the cerebral

nerves, a name has been acquired which is incorporated with the science they taught.

WE now approach with reverence to him, who, in the figurative language of the Latin inscription upon his marble bust, gave motion to the blood, and origin to animals ; and, to whom has been conceded by universal consent, the cognomen of " Immortal."

AFTER being educated in the same city that gave birth to the learned Linacre, William Harvey, according to the then prevailing custom, fixed himself in the University of Padua, at that time in the zenith of its medical fame, and there, while yet a very young man, was created Doctor of Physic and Surgery.

IN the year 1615, after the foundation of the Lumleian Lectures, Harvey's fame pointed him out as the fittest person to deliver them ; and here in 1616, he first opened his discovery of the circulation of the blood, which, by some judicious anatomists had only been suspected to exist in a vague and confused manner, and which others had known to take place in some particular part.

BUT it was reserved for this remarkable man to prove, by simple and satisfactory experiment, even to the most incredulous minds, that the blood not only traversed, but circulated through every part of the body, by means of an admirable arrangement, on which the existence of man depends. He fully evinced the contraction and dilatation of the heart : the passage of the blood ; its reception into the pulmonary veins ; its expulsion from thence ; its being propelled through all the arteries of the body ; and its being returned by the veins.

So clearly were the whole phenomena understood by him, and perspicuously explained, that, though he wrote considerably more than 200 years ago, this function has never since been laid down with more elegance, simplicity and truth.

THE structure of the heart afforded to Harvey additional proof of his doctrine. He asked, of what utility would be the valves, that are situated about its orifice, and, for what reason some should open inwards, from without, and others outwards, from within. Because, he answered, that the former facilitate the entrance of the blood into the heart, and prevent its exit; and the latter permit the passage of the blood out of the heart, and prevent its return. I merely mention this to shew the decisive and plain manner in which he elucidated all his propositions, and the interesting conclusions he drew from each of them.

THE variety of his experiments on animals were innumerable. The human subject, dead or living, he investigated, studied every function and disease that related to the properties of the blood, and being endued with invincible perseverance, solid judgment, and profound knowledge in the different departments of medicine, he could scarcely fail of success.

POSSESSED of true philosophical indifference, both in regard to wealth and fame, and disregarding the ridicule and the taunts of the ignorant and dogmatic, his own genius inspired him with confidence: and he rested his future fame on the surest of all foundations—THE ETERNITY OF TRUTH.

HARVEY modestly spoke of his own merits, and always candidly of those of others. His controversial antagonists he treated with the language of moderation and civility. How different was their language towards him! It is difficult, at this distant day, to decide whether many of his most eminent professional opponents display more of unpardonable and unreasonable scepticism than ignorance of the subject in dispute. Blinded with zeal in defence of preconceived opinions, hallowed by antiquity, and jealous of the fame of his extraordinary discovery; their rage and opprobrious language knew no bounds. On the other hand, the mildness of Harvey merely observed "that it were

better to overcome opposition by truth, and if they will consider with me, the anatomy of the vilest insect, they will find a God, equally in the humbler, as in the higher works of his hand." His researches led him to entertain the most profound veneration for the Great Creator, to whose immediate agency he ascribed all that is wonderful in the operations of nature.

I cannot allow some of the incidents now brought under your notice, merely to be stated without drawing a useful, though painful lesson from them. Gentlemen, it is in these days, as in the days of Harvey. Medicine still resembles a fenced field, into which, too many of its professors, panoplied with envy, hatred, malignity and evil speaking, enter, and, with the zeal of ancient chivalry, hurl the shafts of these degrading passions, against their equally intelligent and more successful fellow practitioners. Young gentlemen, let me warn you with all the earnestness of 30 years professional experience, against party spirit and interested egotism. If there is a human institution, of which no evil passion ought ever to form any part, it is the institution of medicine. By the very opposite of such conduct, you are more likely to become the ornaments and pillars of your profession; uphold the honor of the faculty, and in no case ever stoop to prostitute the dignity of your profession to the sordid views of self interest.

I wish you to observe, how anxious I am in each of these delineations, that the description subserve the purpose of a stimulus to the youthful student. I again very particularly claim your attention to the habits, and consequent acquirements, of the sagacious Sydenham.

THOUGH the general spirit of the age was so entirely devoted to hypothesis and speculation, that his almost solitary example could make no great impression on the general state of medical opinion, he himself had the sagacity to perceive, that the observation of facts only, constitutes the basis of every science, and

leads to the demonstration of truth. He has been styled the Hippocrates of England, and in many parts they agree, both in general character, and their mode of viewing the operations of the animal frame. But, above all, they agree in not permitting speculative opinions, respecting the nature or cause of disease, to interfere with the treatment.

SYDENHAM carefully observed the operation of remedies on the symptoms, and thus he discerned truth by interrogating nature. He accommodated his theory to the facts, and not facts to his theories. He was instructed alone through the medium of his senses, and received only, with acknowledgement, the systems that nature proved.

HE perused and appreciated the great masters, and profited by their truths, without espousing their errors. Endowed by nature with a gift, without which genius is a curse, he listened, he studied, he observed, with *attention*, vigorous, uninterrupted *attention*.

HE knew that in medicine no faults are slight ; that to avoid error, and acquire positive knowledge, he must be *attentive*. If in the study of your profession you wish to rise to eminence, and become benefactors to your species, then you cannot be too soon convinced of the necessity of *attention*. An inattentive physician in serious disease has much to answer for.

IT has been more from necessity than choice, that we have been obliged to pass over the illustrious names of many continental luminaries, including Pinel, Broussais, Laennec, Bayle, and a host of others, forming a distinguished band of pathologists ; as also, Bichat, Cuvier and Majendie, and many more, whose laurels, in the department of physiology, have been richly earned, all indeed forming an illustrious assemblage of medical philosophers.

~~The~~ same necessity will compel us to treat, in a manner little otherwise than nominal, of many illustrious men of the profession, both in the United Kingdom, and in the United States of America.

THE genius of John Hunter, however, so full of enthusiasm, expansive thought, and fertility of invention, is deserving of more, in an assemblage like the present, than a passing remark.

FOR an encouragement and example to the young student, we have brought under notice, many names whose memory is imperishable.

IT is an act of justice in us, to the public men who have done good in their day, to look at the point from which they set out in life, that we may form an estimate of the difficulties they had to encounter, and of the improvements they effected.

JOHN HUNTER, at the mature age of 20 years, with a very limited education, set out for London, on an invitation from his brother William, then an eminent teacher of anatomy in that capital. He soon shewed in his brother's school, the superiority of his talents, and, being an accurate observer of nature, he, like the penetrating Ambrose Pare, followed, with the eye of a master, her dictates, and he never failed. Every hint presented, even by accident, he converted to purposes of utility.

IF it is flattering to man to find that inductions drawn from reason must be attended by the results looked for, as in the well known cases of the great discoverer of the American Continent, as also of Franklin, who looked up with breathless anxiety to the issue of his experiments in electricity. John Hunter must, in common with these illustrious names, have enjoyed the most gratifying delig.

His conceptions of the powers of the lymphatic system were extensive, bold, and original, and prove how deep must have been

his anatomical and physiological knowledge. Abstract and speculative opinions he knew nothing of; he studied facts.

THE estimation of the world, and success in it, are sure to follow those who, like Hunter, enjoy the consciousness of having acted their part well. They will deserve the gratitude of posterity, and, though they may be unable to leave behind them such magnificent monuments of genius and indefatigable industry, as the subject of our brief memoir, they will be enabled, in the latest day of life to say with the learned Chesselden, and the classical and profound Pott "my lamp is nearly extinguished, I hope it has burned for the benefit of others."

TRUTH now stalked with gigantic strides. The 18th century dispelled the superstitious reverence which prevented the dead from being scrutinized for the benefit of the living, and pathology was brought nearer to perfection, by a more intimate knowledge of organic change.

THE amiable and gentle Mead, the clear and comprehensive judgment of Gregory, one of the most distinguished ornaments of his profession, Baillie, whose ample converse with the wonderful works of his Creator inspired him with admiration of the Supreme Being and who looked to the promises of the Gospel, on the conditions explained by the Redeemer, as his humble, but confident hope in life, and his consolation in death; the Munro's, whose well disciplined minds stamped them as men of refined taste, sound knowledge, and indefatigable research.

HEBERDEN, who, like Timothy, from his early youth, entertained a deep sense of religion, a consummate love of virtue; and whose earnest desire it was to promote the happiness and welfare of mankind, who, after passing an active life with the testimony of a good conscience, became a distinguished example of its influence in the cheerfulness and serenity of its latest age.

JENNER, the pupil of John Hunter, whom the roaming indian of the far west, and the crafty and jealous inhabitant of the celestial empire, equally bless, as the originator of that inestimable charm, which protects them from the most loathsome and most destructive of sublunary plagues, who roused against him every human passion that interest and vanity could excite, but who, with the calm dignity of a hero, pursued his splendid career of mercy; and posterity has stamped upon his memory the dignified tribute "that the utmost virulence of those who ignorantly assailed either his conduct or his doctrines, has left no stain upon his name." The Blizzards, Sir Astley Cooper, John Abernethy Liston and others, who glorified surgery by looking upon it as a science, no less than an art; and rested their fame in saving and preserving, instead of dismembering. All these great names are familiar as household words, and have largely contributed to the advancement of pathological and practical knowledge.

MANY influences retarded the advancement of medical science in the United States of America. It was comparatively a new settlement. The population was widely scattered, and, above all, they had come from a country, and lived in an age, in which many superstitious notions refused to admit the slightest progress, or, in the least degree change their antiquated doctrines.

TOWARDS the middle of the 18th century, we find the names of Bard and Middleton advocating the necessity of extended medical instruction in the City of New York.

THE names of Shippen and Morgan are intimately connected as the founders of American Medicine. By their genius and perseverance, they caused the fertilizing streams of knowledge to flow through every state of the Union.

THEY were ably supported by Rush, a name that would do honor to any land. He was the Hippocrates and Sydenham of

America. Deeply impressed with the aphorism, that life is short and art is long, he wasted no time in idle and unprofitable amusements. All that was attractive in life to him, was the studying, the teaching, and the practising of his profession.

No one knew better than Dr. Rush, that nature does not allow herself to be understood without perseverance and patient importunity ; and that she will yield to varied effort and incessant pursuit.

POSSESSING in a high degree the talent of observation, difficulties neither repulsed nor disheartened him. He never allowed himself to be discouraged, knowing that time was profitably employed, when spent in the search of truth.

PERMIT me, further, to recommend this great and good man to the imitation of the youthful student. He was punctual in all his engagements, a pattern of temperance, and regular in all his habits.

HE was an early riser, and devoted those sacred hours to study, which too many devote to the lowest of all animal gratifications.

HE was remarkable for his kindness to the poor, knowing that therein, he lent to the Lord.

WHEN departing from life, which he had spent in a continued series of good offices to man, his last words to his son were "Be indulgent to the poor."

LET the virtues and the virtuous conduct of these eminent members of the profession you have chosen, distinguish you, and your latter end will be like theirs.

THE names of American citizens in connection with every department of medicine, distinguished for their talents, learning and piety, and devoted to the good of their country, and the best interests of their fellow men, would be a hopeless task, barely to enumerate.

In no country, will you find members of the healing art, either those who have adorned, or who now adorn, its medical annals, more distinguished for their love of truth ; or who set a higher value upon the diligent and profitable employment of time, than in the United States of America.



HAVING already taken up so much of your time, it only remains, that I take a cursory view of Canadian Medicine, medical men, and the Medical Institutions of Canada, and finally close with a few words addressed to the professors and students of this New Medical School.

It is pleasing to look at the present accelerating progress of medical institutions of this colony, as in the founding of the McGill College, of Montreal, the Montreal School of Medicine and Surgery, the Medical Faculty of King's College, Toronto, the various Medical Societies, in Canada East and West, and I may add, the publication of medical journals ; there is also much in the past, that must not be left unnoticed.

In the beginning of the 17th century, the country in which we live, was an obscure corner in the Creator's empire. The Indian roamed through the wilds of which our city and its immediate dependencies formed a part. Throughout the breadth and length of our land, terror, misery, and destruction seemed to have leagued together ; and we, that peacefully occupy the site of the wigwams of Stadacona, some endeavouring to extend and communicate useful knowledge ; others carrying out those grand diffusive principles which make the mighty ocean, the rolling river, and the other numberless ramifications, which every day, and on every hand, are manifested, contribute to the happiness of every social circle, and all, in our different spheres, assisting in kindly offices of soothing distress and mutually exchanging senti-

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ment and generous affection, we, I repeat, are no longer scared either by the ravenous wolves of the forest, or by human wolves more ravenous still, thirsting for blood and prowling for their prey.

SOON after the period above mentioned a more auspicious era arose. Under the benignant spirit of enterprise, the restless agitation of malignant passions partially subsided; ferocity was softened, and the battle axe of the warrior was being changed for the axe of the wood cutter, in clearing the almost impenetrable forest.

MANY of the physical evils induced by the red man upon his fellow, began to be ameliorated, and the personal maladies of the suffering Indian was relieved by the sympathy and tenderness of the kind and fostering hand of female benevolence.

WE peruse history, and admire mighty conquerors and barbarian heroes. But the feeling heart sickens over the graves of slaughtered nations, while it dwells with untiring delight over the restoration of moral order. We desire to draw your attention for a moment, to the labours of a society of angelic messengers, who, forsaking the land of their birth and their smiling homes in France, fearlessly devoted themselves to the general good of the inhabitants of the districts, in which the noble foundations of the Hôtel-Dieu of Quebec, Three-Rivers and Montreal were placed.

THE ladies forming the communities of these establishments were the earliest dispensers of medicine in Canada, and in 1640 and 1642, when that scourge of the human race, small pox, was raging with uncommon virulence, these young and delicate females comforted and relieved, both the sick Indian and the Colonist, with the same degree of unremitting attention, that has so remarkably distinguished their successors up to this hour.

I know nothing approaching nearer to perfection in all that regards order, cleanliness, and attention to the wants of the sufferer, than the Hôtel-Dieu of Quebec.

If every other institution in our land, for the relief of human suffering, were conducted with the same sacred regard to the comfort of its inmates, we should indeed be an example to others.

I may be allowed to close this humble but just tribute, by an anecdote connected with the Hôtel-Dieu of this City. Last season, while accompanying an eminent physician of the United States, round the various wards, I observed him going about, from place to place, with his eyes fixed upon the ground, apparently in a meditative mood; and on questioning him as to the subject of his reflections, "I am looking," says he, "for *one* dirty spot ! !"

THE nuns were assisted in process of time by a Sieur Giffard, who was succeeded by M. Jean Madry, a medical practitioner of that incorporation, called Barber Surgeons. Two hundred years have now elapsed since he came to this country, commissioned by the Court of France, and armed with full powers to name his deputies in the profession, consequently, little beyond his name and the extraordinary powers of his commission, have come down to our day, with the exception of his death,—being drowned on his way to Montreal. In 1684, a french frigate arrived at Quebec, having on board l'Abbé de St. Valiere, and many persons of distinction, besides troops and recruits. She was to such an extent infected with sickness, that all the accommodations of the Hôtel-Dieu wherever a bed could be placed were put in requisition. Fever, with delirium, petechia, and a scorbutic affection of the gums, were the principal symptoms. Opening the temporal artery, early in the disease, was found, by the medical attendants, as the most successful of all the remedial measures tried.

IN 1700, an epidemic resembling the influenza of the present day, raged with uncommon virulence, and carried off many of the aged, and among others, M. Rousselle, the physician of the Hôtel-Dieu, a man of great ability, and who had for many years filled with credit, that important office.

THE year 1708 was remarkable for the third equally fatal attack of small pox, which eight years afterwards again appeared, but of a milder type. The *Cimetière des Picotés*, known to us all, in this city, is their resting place.

IN 1710, a vessel called *La Belle Brune*, arrived at Quebec, having on board persons infected with a contagious fever called *la maladie de Siam*, a disease similar to one introduced into the colony some years before, by a vessel named the *Ori-flamme*. In both instances, the disease was communicated to the colonists, and committed fearful ravages, numbering among its victims, during the existence of the latter epidemic, twelve priests and six nuns. From all that can be known of these two epidemics, they bore a close resemblance to the ship fever of last season. Judging also from its fatality to the clergy who administered consolation to those afflicted, we may conclude, that in those days, they did not yield in the devotedness of their duty, to the distinguished zeal of their brethren who periled their lives, in their attendance on the emigrants of 1847.

THE first physician from old France, who attended the Hôtel-Dieu, was, le Sieur Giffard, above-mentioned, and the last was Dr. Dénéchaud, the grand-father of the present highly respectable family of that name, still resident in our city. Dr. Dénéchaud was a man of genius, of mild and winning address, who benevolently solaced the sufferers under his care, and possessed many qualifications, which entitle his memory to esteem.

FROM the middle, to the end of the 18th century, the principal physicians in this city were Drs. Badelart, Guthry, Hurst, Beaumont, Lapane, Lajus, Duvert, Superant, Latterrière, Ust and Suzor; some of whose descendants, like those of Dr. Dénéchaud, occupy a prominent place among the most respectable citizens of Lower-Canada.

AMONG the British names deserving of mention, as having been in their day, faithful and attentive practitioners, may be

noted those of Dr. Nooth, head of the army medical department in 1793, who accompanied Lord Dorchester to Canada, and who was distinguished for his high professional character, together with the names of Davidson, Longmoore, Fisher, Holmes, Buchanan, Cockburn, Lloyd and others. (*Vide Appendix.*)

FOR many years after the conquest the principal practice was in the hands of the military medical officers who acted in double capacity of military and civil practitioners, more particularly among the families of British origin.

THE first board of medical examiners was established about 1794, under the ordinance lately superseded by the foundation of the college of physicians and surgeons of Lower Canada, the governors of which, now from the provincial medical Board, its members were Drs. Fisher, Lajus, Foote and Oliva.

IT may be remarked of Drs. Longmoore and Holmes that they were the first two english practitioners attached to the Hôtel-Dieu, and the first to admit students, natives of Canada, into their offices.

THE last military gentleman I shall name, whom the profession as well as the public, held in high and deserved estimation, as a scholar, physician and philanthropist, was Dr. Skey, the then inspector general of military hospitals.

AMONG the leading native members of the profession in the early part of this century, who have now gone to their account. I may mention Drs. Menard, F. Blanchet, Labrie, Mercier, P. De Sales, Laterrière, Hall, Holmes, Perreault, Tessier, Fargues, and others, all of whom had finished their education in Europe, or in the United-States. *Vide Appendix.*

GENTLEMEN, I do no more than justice to the present Medical Faculty of Quebec, as a body, when I state, that they are not surpassed on this continent, for their skill in Medicine, Surgery

and Obstetrics ; and, I am proud to add, for their strictly temperate habits.

GENTLEMEN, those among you, who are to occupy the honorable position of Professors in this Medical School, pursue with ardour and constancy every discovery after truth. The basis on which rests the glory of Medical Professors both in ancient and modern times, is the sterling truth of their observations. Never employ your talents in aggrandizing visionary hypotheses. As truth alone is abiding, it is not merely the duty of every Medical Professor, but it is his greatest glory, to declare it. Be systematic, patient, and attentive, and clear in all your statements of particular facts. Be affable, yet dignified. Leave nothing untended to, that will promote the acquisition of true experience among those under your tuition and direction.

GENTLEMEN students, I have, in my past statements, anticipated much of what I intended to say to you. The profession you have chosen is one, in which many see, but they do not perceive ; they hear, but they do not understand. It is not the number of sessions you devote to preparatory medical studies, which is to be the measure of your experimental knowledge. Tell me if you spend your hours, as I have shewn you, that the young and ardent Lallemand spent his ; and I will tell you the extent of your knowledge.

To study your profession with advantage, have your minds been improved by a sound education ? It cannot be pleaded with excuse, in the cities and towns of this colony, that they do not, at the present day, afford the most ample means of receiving an elementary education, equal to that to be obtained in Europe.

UNLESS your mind has been trained by a liberal education, to observe, compare, and reflect,—unless you are endowed with the capacity of generalizing, nay, originating, and suggesting, you will never attain to eminence, in your profession.

As knowledge is one of the main springs of virtuous conduct, I hope then, you have not ceased to profit by the general diffusion of elementary instruction in the educational seminaries of our land.

Your intellectual views will be expanded by the classical and scientific foundation, you have laid while at school. No city can afford to exact a higher standard of early mental cultivation than that of Quebec. You possess the means of improvement in modern languages, by the peculiar constitution of our society, and the classical authors of antiquity are taught in our seminaries of learning, with a success and discernment, which admirably fit them for enlarging the capacities of the mind, stimulating its faculties, and producing rational enjoyment.

If this medical school is to become an ornament to the city, and a blessing to the community, it must have for its object the intercourse of "mind with mind."

THEY deceive themselves who will not exact as high attainments from every student, as his opportunities justify. My young friends, spend your hours profitably, and you will soon possess the experience of years. The most ample resources for obtaining a complete medical education, equal in all the means of instruction, and superior in many, to any other institution on the American continent, will be here afforded.

It would be difficult fully to point out the opportunities of professional improvement, in the study of physic and surgery, from the countless accidents and diseases which fill the Marine. Emigrant, and Hôtel-Dieu hospitals of this city ; and of acquiring the most valuable kind of knowledge which is afforded by experience.

THE progressive commercial importance and the local advantages of Quebec, as a sea port, visited annually by upwards of 1,200 ships ; the peculiar facilities in medical and surgical

practice in an hospital containing more than 300 beds, and receiving during the period of navigation upwards of 1,500 patients, the power of disciplining the cases and framing them to observation; of attaining a knowledge of maladies and carefully investigating the seat of disease and the organs affected; all these are calculated to render this medical school, one of the very best sources of knowledge in true surgery and clinical medicine. Nor are the numerous and important operations in every department of surgery, and the means of rendering them advantageous to the student, alone to be regarded. The benefit arising from clinical instruction in the Marine Hospital, in both the French and English languages, as well as access to a library of the best standard medical works, is a distinguishing feature of the efficiency and ability of the Quebec School of Medicine.

GENTLEMEN, I cherish the warmest sentiments of respect for our projected school. As it is pre-eminent in local advantages, I trust that patriotism, the love of science, public spirit, and the general interests of learning, will hereafter stir up many of our benevolent and wealthy citizens to appropriate a portion of their wealth, in imitation of the late Mr. McGill, of Montreal, and of the late Dr. Fargues, after his return from England, whose munificent bequest, if carried into effect, will more firmly found this invaluable institution, that it may be the pride of our city, and of medical science, and that we may not, in vain, have adopted the motto on the circular of our medical school,—

Vires acquirit eundo.